

Chains for Forklifts

Forklift Chain - The life of the forklift lift chains can be extended with proper maintenance and care. Lubricating properly is a great way in order to lengthen the capability of this lift truck part. It is important to apply oil periodically with a brush or whatever lube application tool. The frequency and volume of oil application should be enough so as to stop whichever rust discoloration of oil in the joints. This reddish brown discoloration generally signals that the lift chains have not been correctly lubricated. If this condition has happened, it is very essential to lubricate the lift chains as soon as possible.

All through lift chain operation it is normal for some metal to metal contact to occur that can cause several parts to wear out in the long run. Once there is 3% elongation on the lift chain, it is considered by industry standards to have worn out the chain. In order to stop the scary likelihood of a catastrophic lift chain failure from taking place, the maker highly recommends that the lift chain be replaced before it reaches three percent elongation. The lift chain gets longer because of progressive joint wear that elongates the chain pitch. This elongation is capable of being measured by placing a certain number of pitches under tension.

To be able to ensure proper lift chain maintenance, another factor to consider is to check the clevis pins on the lift chain for signs of wearing. Lift chains are put together so that the clevis pins have their tapered faces lined up with each other. Normally, rotation of the clevis pins is frequently caused by shock loading. Shock loading takes place when the chain is loose and then all of a sudden a load is applied. This causes the chain to experience a shock as it 'snaps' under the load tension. Without the proper lubrication, in this case, the pins can rotate in the chain's link. If this situation occurs, the lift chains have to be replaced right away. It is vital to always replace the lift chains in pairs to ensure even wear.